Key Messages for CBD COP17

ENACT Partnership Secretariat

October 2026

Introduction

These key messages have been prepared by the ENACT Partnership Secretariat to support partners and stakeholders in advancing nature-based solutions (NbS) for climate change and biodiversity in **UNCBD COP17** discussions and outcomes.

Building on ENACT Partnership reports and the outcomes of key high-level events and technical dialogues, these messages are intended to support strengthened collective engagement on critical topics related to NbS during UNCBD COP17.



COP17 Context and Relevance for NbS

CBD COP17 comes at a critical point for implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), marking the first Global Review of collective progress and the halfway point toward its 2030 targets. The review will draw on national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), national targets, seventh national reports, and other sources to assess progress, identify implementation gaps, and inform efforts to accelerate delivery through 2030.

The emerging **COP17 agenda** places particular attention on accelerating national implementation and strengthening the enabling conditions needed to deliver the Framework. Biodiversity finance, capacity and implementation support, monitoring and reporting, and cooperation across international environmental processes will therefore be important components of the discussions in Yerevan.

This implementation-focused context creates an important opportunity to demonstrate how Nature-based Solutions (NbS) can contribute to KMGBF delivery. NbS are explicitly recognised under Target 8 on minimising the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and enhancing its resilience, and Target 11 on restoring, maintaining and enhancing nature's contributions to people. NbS can also contribute to the implementation of several other targets, including those related to ecosystem restoration[1], sustainable production[2], urban resilience[3], finance[4], and inclusive governance[5].

[1] Target 2: Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems
[2] Target 10: Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry
[3] Target 12: Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity
[4] Target 19: Mobilise $200 Billion per Year for Biodiversity From all Sources, Including $30 Billion Through International Finance
[5] Target 22: Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice and Information Related to Biodiversity for all and Target 23: Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action

The relevance of NbS extends across biodiversity, climate and land objectives. Climate resilience, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem integrity are deeply interconnected, and coordinated approaches can contribute to more effective conservation, restoration, climate change adaptation and mitigation[6]. Evidence also supports the case of the potential economic value of NbS; for example, Vicarelli et al. (2024) found substantial evidence that NbS can be cost-effective for reducing disaster risk, although the relative performance of NbS and engineered measures varies across hazards (specifically flooding, coastal storm surges, soil erosion, and sea-level rise) and implementation contexts.[7]

However, despite their potential, investment in NbS remains substantially below what is required to meet global biodiversity, climate, and land restoration targets. According to the State of Finance for Nature 2026, NbS received approximately US$220 billion in investment in 2023, but investment would need to increase 2.5 times to US$571 billion annually by 2030 to meet global targets under the Rio Conventions.[8]

This implementation gap reinforces the need to move beyond recognising NbS toward using them as a practical delivery mechanism, supported by clear national targets, adequate finance, and effective monitoring. Therefore, COP17 provides an important opportunity to demonstrate how NbS can support measurable, inclusive, and nationally driven implementation, while strengthening coherence across the Rio Conventions.

In addition to formal negotiation spaces, COP17 will host several side events and high-level engagement opportunities that will bring together governments, financial institutions, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, local actors and other stakeholders to advance discussions around implementation, best practices, finance opportunities and gaps, and cooperation.

The **Türkiye COP31 Presidency**, alongside the **G20 Global Land Initiative at UNCCD**, the **ENACT Partnership**, and **IUCN**, will be co-convening spaces to advance discussions on synergies across the Rio Conventions and their translation into coordinated implementation:

- The **Rio Synergies Workshop at CBD COP17 – What Does Implementation Look Like in Practice?** To be held on 20 October, will provide an interactive space for non-state actors and government representatives to explore practical approaches and experiences in implementing biodiversity, climate and land synergies, including through NbS, ecosystem restoration, integrated landscape approaches and collaborative governance mechanisms. Discussions will contribute to identifying opportunities and approaches for advancing implementation.

[6] Lottje et al (2025): Building synergies between biodiversity and climate: Insights from countries on NBSAP and NDC planning and implementation
[7] Vicarelli et al (2024): On the cost-effectiveness of Nature-based Solutions for reducing disaster risk.
[8] UNEP (2026): State of Finance for Nature 2026: Nature in the red: Powering the trillion-dollar nature transition economy.

- The **Yerevan Technical Dialogue on Rio Synergies** to be held on 23 October, will explore how biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and NbS can strengthen coherent, practical, and country-led implementation across the three Rio Conventions. It will also seek to identify common implementation priorities, country-led actions, and potential technical partners to support concrete early synergy actions that countries could announce at UNFCCC COP31 through the Rio Synergies Group for Action.

ENACT key messages as per UNCBD COP17 programme

Specific focus on the discussions of particular relevance to NbS:

Item 18(a) – Biodiversity and climate change

- Following the recommendation adopted by CBD SBSTTA-27 on 24 October 2025, the ENACT Partnership Secretariat welcomes the inclusion of a reference to the ENACT Partnership under para 15 (footnote 15) of the draft decision on biodiversity and climate change (**Recommendation SBSTTA-27/3**). The draft text recognises ENACT as a key partnership for enhancing policy coherence and cooperation across the Rio Conventions.

- Strengthening policy coherence across the Rio Conventions requires moving beyond the recognition of NbS in national policy documents towards their coordinated implementation. Although NbS are increasingly referenced in national policy documents across the Rio Conventions, these references do not necessarily translate into binding or operational obligations. Existing commitments are often insufficiently anchored in law, measurable targets, and finance[9]. Therefore, translating these commitments into concrete actions requires stronger alignment across national policy frameworks, clear implementation arrangements, adequate financing, and effective monitoring mechanisms to assess progress and outcomes.

- Integrating NbS across NBSAPs, NDCs, and NAPs is an important pathway to deliver complementary biodiversity and climate outcomes. Identifying shared priorities across these instruments can connect biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration with climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience objectives.

- Standardised indicators for NbS can play an important role in monitoring progress and demonstrating the contribution of NbS to biodiversity and climate objectives. Metrics on restoration success and improvements in ecosystem services can help assess NbS outcomes, while greater alignment with relevant indicators in NDCs and NAPs, where possible, can support more coherent monitoring across biodiversity and climate agendas.

[9] ENACT 2026 State of NbS Report (pre-launch unedited publication version).

- NbS can provide cost-effective approaches to reducing climate-related disaster risks, with the potential to deliver additional biodiversity and societal benefits. Evidence demonstrates their potential for disaster risk reduction, although their relative cost-effectiveness compared with engineered approaches depends on the hazards and implementation contexts considered.[10]

Item 13 – Cooperation with other conventions and international organisations

- Synergies across the Rio Conventions are clear, particularly between climate and biodiversity policy instruments, but their recognition in national policy documents does not necessarily translate into coordinated implementation. A key challenge remains in understanding how these policy linkages translate into concrete actions on the ground and deliver complementary ecological and social outcomes[11].

- Greater coherence between NBSAPs, NDCs, NAPs, and Land Degradation Neutrality targets is essential for operationalising Rio Convention synergies. Cross-referencing national targets and identifying shared NbS priorities can help translate common objectives into complementary implementation measures.

- Joint institutional coordination is a critical enabler for strengthening NbS synergies. Cooperation among CBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD focal points can facilitate shared implementation priorities, coordinated financing, and reduced fragmentation across policy processes.

- Existing NbS financing flows already demonstrate opportunities for synergies across the Rio Conventions. In 2023, approximately 43% of official development finance targeting NbS supported projects contributing to objectives across all three Rio Conventions[12]. This provides a foundation for strengthening coherence in how NbS investments are planned, financed, and monitored across biodiversity, climate, and land priorities.

Item 8 – Resource mobilisation and financial mechanism

- NbS financing must increase substantially to meet global biodiversity, climate, and land restoration targets. The latest State of Finance for Nature report indicates that to meet the Rio Conventions' global biodiversity, climate, and land restoration targets, NbS investment must increase 2.5 times to US$571 billion annually by 2030[12].

- NbS commitments need financing arrangements that correspond to their intended scale and outcomes. Identifying the ecosystem pressures being addressed, expected impacts, and quantifiable financing needs is essential for translating national ambitions into adequately financed interventions[11].

[10] Vicarelli et al (2024): On the cost-effectiveness of Nature-based Solutions for reducing disaster risk.
[11] ENACT 2026 State of NbS Report (pre-launch unedited publication version).
[12] UNEP (2026): State of Finance for Nature 2026: Nature in the red: Powering the trillion-dollar nature transition economy.

- National biodiversity finance plans provide an important mechanism for connecting NbS priorities with resource mobilisation. Integrating NbS financing needs into these plans can help link national biodiversity targets with appropriate domestic, international, and private financing opportunities.

- Developing bankable and financially feasible NbS interventions is important for attracting public and private capital. Assessing feasibility, expected benefits, and potential risks can build private investment confidence, inform financing decisions, and support the long-term sustainability of NbS interventions.

Annex

High-level and other engagement opportunities

Beyond the formal negotiations, several high-level and official parallel spaces provide opportunities to amplify ENACT messages and showcase partner experiences:

- **2026 Biodiversity Capacity-Building and Development Forum** – 24 October: Under the theme From Ambition to Action: Scaling Capacity Development for Accelerated National Implementation, the Forum will focus on sharing experiences, lessons learned, and possible practical solutions to address key technological, technical, and institutional capacity gaps identified through the Global Review, while also exploring opportunities to strengthen capacities to implement NBSAPs and the KMGBF. This is particularly relevant to ENACT's country-driven implementation and technical-support role.

- **9th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities** – 24 October: The Summit will gather Governors, Mayors, and other subnational government leaders, as well as UN agencies, financial institutions, and other key stakeholders to address implementation at the territorial level, including coherence across the Rio Conventions and the finance, capacity and monitoring systems needed by local and subnational governments. Its programme includes dialogues on connecting global agendas, mainstreaming nature, mobilising finance and accelerating implementation on the ground.

- **Nature and Culture Summit** – 24 October: This official parallel event will focus on biocultural diversity and implementation of the new Programme of Work on Article 8(j), including the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, traditional knowledge, partnerships and access to finance.

- **Finance Day** – 26 October: Convened in connection with COP17 by UNEP FI and partners, Finance Day will focus on aligning financial flows with NBSAPs, public–private collaboration and translating biodiversity commitments into investable action. This provides a particularly relevant space for ENACT's finance messages.

- **Global Biodiversity Framework Pavilion**[13] – 24–29 October: The Pavilion is explicitly designed to support KMGBF implementation through practical exchange, capacity-building and cooperation. Relevant thematic days include Accelerating NBSAP Implementation Day on 27 October and Restoration Day on 29 October, both of which provide opportunities to connect NbS experiences with national implementation.

- **High-Level Segment** – 27–28 October: The ministerial High-Level Segment provides an opportunity to elevate ENACT messages on accelerating KMGBF implementation, mobilising finance for nature, strengthening monitoring and evidence, and enhancing synergies across multilateral environmental agreements. Specific thematic roundtables are available in the **information note.**

[13] Not an event itself, rather a collaborative space to foster conversations on KMGBF implementation.